

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 04751 220005Z

67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 IO-14 OPR-02 DRC-01

NEA-14 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /152 W

----- 071972

P R 212250Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4331

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN ATHENS AS OF
2300 JUL 21

1. MOBILIZATION AND SECURITY - MOBILIZATION OF GREEK
RESERVISTS AND OTHER ELIGIBLE MEN (WHICH INCLUDES NEARLY
THE ENTIRE MALE POPULATION BETWEEN THE AGES OF 20-50) IS
PROCEEDING AND WILL REACH ITS PEAK OF READINESS BY
1000 JULY 22. (MOBILIZATION COMMENCED ABOUT NOON JULY 20
AND REQUIRES ABOUT 48 HOURS.) THERE ARE REPORTS THAT
SOME MOBILIZED MEN, PRESUMABLY SUPERNUMERARY, HAVE ALREADY
RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES. GREEK MEN IN FIRST AND SECOND
CATEGORIES HAVE BEEN INDUCTED; THIRD CATEGORY HAS HAD
ONLY TO REPORT. (CATEGORIES RESPECTIVELY ARE 1) DISCHARGED
PAST 24 MONTHS; 2) 24-48 MONTHS AND 3) BEYOND 48 MONTHS.)
TRUCKS AND BUSES CARRYING MEN TO INDUCTION CENTERS ARE
NUMEROUS THROUGHOUT THE CITY; OFTEN THE MEN ARE SINGING
OR WAVING. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL REUTERS REPORTER
FLOWERS AND LAUREL HAVE BEEN DECKED ON ARMY TRUCKS AND ON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 04751 220005Z

TANKS IN ONE NORTHERN CITY. SECURITY MEASURES HAVE

INCREASED IN THE CITY; POLICE GUARDS HAVE DOUBLED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE (OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDING), NUMEROUS POLICE ARE PRESENT AT CONSTITUTION SQUARE AND OTHER PUBLIC GATHERING CENTERS, AND REGULAR POLICE AT ALL EMBASSIES HAVE INCREASED. AIRPORTS AND SEAPORTS ARE SHUTDOWN. TRAINS ARE OPERATING, INCLUDING THOSE DESTINED FOR YUGOSLAVIA AND POINTS NORTH. INTER-ISLAND FERRIES ARE NO LONGER OPERATING REGULARLY, AND URBAN BUSES ARE EXPECTED TO BE ON REDUCED OPERATION JULY 22.

2. CITY ACTIVITIES - ALL BANKS WERE CLOSED EARLY IN AFTERNOON JULY 20 TO PREVENT A RUN ON ACCOUNTS BAKERIES AND FOODSTORES WERE BUSY, AND STOCKS OF STAPLES DEPLETED. GASOLINE STATIONS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO CLOSE JULY 22; ONLY A FEW WERE OPEN TODAY. THEATERS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO SHUT DOWN. RESTAURANTS ARE EITHER CLOSED BECAUSE OF LACK OF PERSONNEL OR EMPTY OF USUAL GREEK PATRONS. THOSE CATERING TO TOURISTS ARE BUSY. TOURISTS ARE VERY EVIDENT IN CITY AND BECOMING MORE AND MORE ANXIOUS AS THEIR FUNDS ARE DEPLETED AND THEIR DEPARTURE PLANS DEFERRED. OUR CONSULAR SECTION HAS REGISTERED ABOUT 5,000 AMERICAN TOURISTS. THE USUALLY BOISTEROUS PLAKA IS SILENT AT NIGHT. ATHENS AND THESSALONIKI STREETS SEEM CALM, UNUSUALLY SO IN SOME NEIGHBORHOODS, AND DOWNTOWN SUNDAY STROLLING AND TRAFFIC ARE NOT QUITE UP TO NORMAL LEVELS. THE ONLY TOPIC OF CONVERSATION IS THE GENERAL MOBILIZATION TO MEET THE CRISIS IN CYPRUS. THE EMOTIONAL REACTION AGAINST THE TURKS HAS INCREASED. NO OBVIOUS SIGN OF ANTI-AMERICANISM HAVE APPEARED. SOME GREEKS HAVE CONVEYED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS THEIR CONVICTION THAT THE U.S. EFFORTS WILL BRING ABOUT A SOLUTION. GREEK EX-POLITICAL FIGURES, INCLUDING FOUR FORMER PREMIERS HAVE MADE PATRIOTIC STATEMENTS APPEALING FOR NATIONAL UNITY. WHILE FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ALONG WITH NUMEROUS EXILED GREEKS AND OVERSEAS WORKERS HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR MILITARY SERVICE AGAINST THE TURKS. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME GREEKS HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED ON THE CYPRIOT ISSUE AND UNDER THE PRESENT REGIME.

3. PRESS AND MEDIA TREATMENT. PRESS IS PUBLISHING ONLY GOVERNMENT-APPROVED STATEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 04751 220005Z

GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED RADIO AND TELEVISION HAVE SHIFTED FROM EXHORTATIVE, MARTIAL PRESENTATION TO CALMER TONE IN NEWS AND COMMENTARY PROGRAMS. FREQUENT REFERENCE TO AND STREE ON INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE (BRANT, UN, EEC, POPE, ETC.) SEEM TO INDICATE THAT PUBLIC IS BEING PREPARED FOR EVENTUAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF GREECE'S ACCEPTANCE OF CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL. LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE RUMORS OF POSSIBLE CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT.

4. ALL IN ALL, AS OF THIS MOMENT THE SITUATION SEEMS ABOUT WHAT ONE WOULD EXPECT IN A GROWINGLY TENSE ATMOSPHERE. DOWNTOWN ATHENS IS EXTEEMELY QUIET, BUT A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF ARMED POLICE ARE IN EVIDENCE IN OMONIA AND SYNTAGMA SQUARES WITH SMALLER GROUPS OF POLICE STATIONED IN STRATEGIC SPOTS ON SIDESTREETS. APPARENTLY THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF READINESS FOR ANY EVENTUALITY. TASCA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS04751
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740196-1058
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740731/aaaaazzh.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <26-Sep-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN ATHENS AS OF 2300 JUL 21
TAGS: PINS, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005